

**Subject:**  
Restructure Of The Lancashire Partnership

**Status:** For Publication

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**Report to:** The Cabinet

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> July 2007

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**Report of:** Head of Community and Partnerships

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**Portfolio**

**Holder:** Health and Wellbeing

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**Key Decision:** No

Forward Plan  General Exception  Special Urgency

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform members about the proposed restructure of the Lancashire Partnership and to share with members the consultation on the proposals.

**2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

- 2.1 The Lancashire Partnership is the Local Strategic Partnership for Lancashire and as such all of its work has the potential to impact on all of the work within the Borough.

**3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no risks associated with this report.

**4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS**

The Lancashire Partnership is the Local Strategic Partnership for the whole of Lancashire. It has been operating under an interim structure for some time and now wishes to consult partners on a more permanent structure for the future.

The new structure seeks to ensure that it is fit for purpose and able to meet the challenges of the Local Government Act and the new Local Area Agreement.

The Local Government White Paper suggests that LSPs should:

- Be the partnership of partnerships - LSPs will provide an overarching framework for thematic partnerships, some of which are required by statute, such as Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships. There will be new legislation creating Health and Well-being Partnerships.
- Be responsible for the development of the Vision for the area as expressed through the Sustainable Community Strategy - the future for the LSPs is in leading the strategic direction for the area and in developing a collective sense of place.
- Be responsible for the delivery of the LAA (the County Council being responsible for its preparation)
- Involve the leadership and members of the local authority. The leadership role of the council in relation to the LSP is emphasised. Council leaders will be expected to agree the chair of the LSP (if they do not take the chair themselves), and to play a key role. Members of the council's cabinet should also play key roles, for example in sub-partnerships related to their portfolio.

The proposed new structure aims to ensure that the Partnership:

- adopts a culture, style and tone of partnership working that is inclusive and participative but also able to make decisions
- ensures clarity about the task being carried out by particular partnerships at any point in time
- recognises the importance of effective and flexible communication and links between the various partnerships
- adopts and owns a coherent and strategic vision that identifies key priorities for the county as a whole
- ensures clarity about the authorisation of partnership decisions and recognises the role of political and other accountable leaders in that process

The attached diagram shows the proposed structure which is meant to be cyclical and not a linear approach to decision making and accountability.

The Lancashire Partnership would like to ask partners specific questions regarding the proposed structure and seeks our response by 5<sup>th</sup> July.

The Rossendale Partnership has already considered the report at its executive meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> June and its response is also attached.

The questions we are asked to consider are:

1. What should the district LSP representation be on the Executive?
  - a. 1 To represent a district perspective
  - b. 12 to represent each district
  - c. another option?

2. Are there other thematic partnerships that should be included in the structure?
  - a. Do they already exist?
  - b. Do they need to be created?
  - c. Is there a lead organisation?
  
3. How best can the private sector be meaningfully involved?
  - a. Should and can chambers of commerce represent the private sector?
  - b. What other mechanisms might be used?
  - c. What role can the Lancashire Economic Partnership fulfil?
  - d. What additional resources might be required to support private sector involvement?
  - e. Should individual private sector organisations be identified and individually invited?
  - f. Should a private sector reference group with an advisory role be set up to take this forward?
  
4. What status should the unitary authorities of Blackburn-with-Darwen and Blackpool have within the Lancashire Partnership?
  
5. If or how should higher education be represented on the Partnership? Should the universities be separately and/or individually represented?
  
6. Are there any other key organisations that should be named and represented within the structure?

Members may wish to note that the proposed structure allows for LSP representation on the Partnership of Partnerships and Borough Council representation on the Executive.

## **5. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications

## **6. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

- 6.1 Partnerships are increasingly important as vehicles for the distribution of government funding and it is therefore very important to review partnership arrangements to ensure they are fit for purpose and operate efficiently.

## **7. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

- 7.1 There are no human resources implications.

## 8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 Members have an opportunity to influence the structure of the Lancashire Partnership.

## 9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That in light of the views expressed at Cabinet, the Head of Community and Partnerships be requested to prepare a response.

## 10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 10.1 Rossendale Partnership

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Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Partnership restructure document	<a href="http://www.ambitionlancashire.co.uk">www.ambitionlancashire.co.uk</a> or Room 113 Futures Park

## **Draft response from the Rossendale Partnership**

- 1. What should the districts and LSP representation be on the Executive?**
  - a. 1 To represent a district perspective**
  - b. 12 to represent each district**
  - c. another option?**

The LSP Executive are keen to see more than one representative of district LSPs on the Partnership and therefore would seek to have all 12 district LSPs represented on this body.

Because there are good links between the Borough Council and the LSP in Rossendale we are happy for there to be representation of the Council on the Executive but only if this is not diluted by limiting the number of district council seats.

- 7. Are there other thematic partnerships that should be included in the structure?**
  - a. Do they already exist?**
  - b. Do they need to be created?**
  - c. Is there a lead organisation?**

There are a range of pan Lancashire and sub- Lancashire partnerships – any of these should be allowed to seek membership of the Lancashire partnership as necessary through a membership application process.

- 8. How best can the private sector be meaningfully involved?**
  - a. Should and can chambers of commerce represent the private sector?**
  - b. What other mechanisms might be used?**
  - c. What role can the Lancashire Economic Partnership fulfil?**
  - d. What additional resources might be required to support private sector involvement?**
  - e. Should individual private sector organisations be identified and individually invited?**
  - f. Should a private sector reference group with an advisory role be set up to take this forward?**

It is imperative that the private sector are involved with the partnership and an effective business forum or series of sub regional forums needs to be established to ensure clear representation from all parts of the business sector – including social enterprises, medium size businesses and larger employers.

- 9. What status should the unitary authorities of Blackburn-with-Darwen and Blackpool have within the Lancashire Partnership?**

Both Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool councils cover significant populations and offer substantial economic benefits to the wider Lancashire footprint. It makes a great deal of sense to include them on the Partnership of the Lancashire Partnership with a voting seat each.

**10.If or how should higher education be represented on the Partnership? Should the universities be separately and/or individually represented?**

There are a number of higher education organisations across Lancashire each employing a large number of people and also providing key skills and development for our workforces. As such they play a significant part in the Lancashire agenda and should be included in the Partnership. However, it may be best to consider how they would wish to be represented rather than imposing upon them an approach.

**11.Are there any other key organisations that should be named and represented within the structure?**

Please see the comments made above regarding the ability for organisations to apply for membership to be determined by the partnership itself or the executive.

**DRAFT STRUCTURE May 2007**

**KEY:**

□ BODIES/PARTNERSHIPS

-ABC FUNCTION

Reps MEMBERSHIP



